

Final census leaves only 27 U.S. patterns unconfirmed

61 members report on
their collections—and on

A-rated holdings

By Robert H. Szymanski

In the June 2000 *Bulletin*, I presented the preliminary results of the U.S. perfins census. As gratified as I was with the response at that time, I continued to receive additional information from 12 other members (making a total of 61)—many of them foreign members who needed a bit more time because of mailing delays. To all who participated, I express my wholehearted gratitude for a fine effort.

Biggest collection has 6,150 patterns

With the report received from Sal Guarini on his collection we were able to identify many of the patterns listed in the June issue as unseen by the present editor on a particular issue. Sal also reported a total of 6150 patterns! This is by far the largest U.S. collection known to exist. Congratulations to Sal for putting together such a fine U.S. perfins collection! With the results received since the first article, our reporting members have reduced the original (as listed in the 1998 catalog) 102 unseen patterns to 51 and now, I am very happy to report, to 27. Should you have any of these 27 patterns, please contact John Randall with both the U.S. perfins catalog number and the Scott # on which the pattern appears.

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If you have any of these 27 unseen patterns, let the catalog chairman know

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Still unseen: A221-39, B31.6, D87, F58A, F194.5, G41.5, G143.5, G154A, H117.5, I122.5, L14.5, L18.3, L55-11, L116.5, M1.5, N208.5, O45.5, P1.5, P89.5, P100.7I, P121.3, U104.3, Des90-46, Des90-49, Des90-52, Des90-63, and Des90-67.

Some members have questioned how there could be patterns not seen by anybody.

This is a good question with no simple answer.

While preparing the new catalog, John Randall was not privy to all of the documentation from previous catalog editors. Should any member know of the whereabouts of this material, John would certainly like to hear from you. With this in mind you can see how John, in preparing the new catalog, has depended upon the work of those who have gone before but sometimes with faith and not always with empirical knowledge.

Naturally, we have only 61 members reporting and many more perfins collectors. These patterns may very well be in their collections.

Patterns on revenues may skew actual count of A-rated perfins

There is a slim chance that one or another of the patterns might be found only on a U.S. revenue stamp and should not be included in this survey, nor for that matter in the catalog.

Personal experience has proven to me that several large perfins collections that I have seen or acquired have had revenue stamps in some of the A- or B-rate locations very possibly where the collector has felt that it was better to show the perfin on a revenue stamp rather than have an open space while awaiting a postally used stamp with that pattern to appear. The U.S. perfins catalog, however, does not list any of these patterns on a revenue stamp!

Should any census-reporting members have reported revenue perfins as A-rated perfins without identifying such to me, I would appreciate a note indicating such.

A number of collectors thought that it would be important to itemize revenue perfins with postally "A" rated patterns but these were not counted in the tally. I thank them for being so conscientiously clear in their tally.

Some patterns may be lost or destroyed

There is a further explanation for no report on a particular pattern that I hope is not the case and this is that the stamp has been lost or destroyed. Is this possible?

There are 412 A-rated patterns that were not reported or were reported on only one copy! How many patterns were used and no copies remain? How many new patterns will still be discovered?

Important and frequently asked questions

Two questions were asked with some frequency and should be answered since there may be many others with the same questions.

The first question is "How valuable are revenues with "A" rated perfins?"

The easiest answer is that the U.S. perfins catalog gives ratings for

A project is under way to find, identify, and catalog perforated insignia known on U.S. revenue issues. Work sheets are being put together now and members are invited to join in this massive effort. Contact Chuck Spaulding, 48 Strathmore Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570-1848, if you are interested in being involved in this project.

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